

## Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 COTONO 00656 031335Z  
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 SCS-06 CA-01 L-03 EB-08  
AID-05 TRSE-00 /039 W  
-----007349 031717Z /46  
R 031100Z MAY 78  
FM AMEMBASSY COTONOU  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0701  
AMEMBASSY LAGOS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE COTONOU 0656

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: EINV, DM, US  
SUBJ: JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES COMPENSATION NEGOTIATIONS

REF: A. STATE 111967 B. LAGOS 5502

1. IN MEETING MAY 3 WITH GOV'T OF PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BENIN (GPRB) PROTOCOL AND CONSULAR AFFAIRS CHIEF PAQUI, CHARGE RAISED QUESTION OF PROSSER'S FREE ENTRY AND EXIT TO BENIN. CHARGE NOTED THAT PROSSER HAD BEEN OFFICIALLY EXPELLED AND ASKED WHETHER THIS WOULD AFFECT HIS STATUS AS A NEGOTIATOR. PAQUI REPLIED THAT TO HIS KNOWLEDGE NO RECORD HAD BEEN KEPT OF THE NAMES OF THOSE EXPELLED IN 1976, BUT TO BE ON THE SAFE SIDE REQUESTED THAT WE SUBMIT A DIPLOMATIC NOTE ASKING FOR GUARANTEE. ON BASIS OF NOTE PAQUI CAN CHECK WITH INTERIOR MINISTRY AND GIVE US OFFICIAL REPLY. WE ARE PREPARING NOTE TODAY.

2. AS A MATTER OF PRINCIPLE, WE QUESTION WISDOM OF DESIGNATING AS NEGOTIATOR A WITNESS WHO WAS DECLARED PERSONNA NON GRATA BY GPRB. SUGGEST THAT WATCH TOWER SOCIETY SEEK NEGOTIATOR LESS DIRECTLY INVOLVED, BOTH EMOTIONALLY AND PHYSICALLY, IN WITNESSES' EXPULSION FROM BENIN. IN ADDITION, DO NOT BELIEVE THAT WITNESSES' LEAVE PLANS SHOULD BE FACTOR IN NEGOTIATIONS WHICH HAVE REQUIRED NEARLY TWO YEARS TO ORGANIZE. NOTHING MOVES  
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QUICKLY IN BENIN, AND TO CREATE ARTIFICIAL PRESSURES SUCH AS ABSENCES FOR LEAVE PURPOSES STRIKES US AS UNNECESSARY COMPLICATION.  
THOMPSON

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** COMPENSATION, NEGOTIATIONS, RELIGIOUS GROUPS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 03 may 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978COTON000656  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780188-1129  
**Format:** TEL  
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**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
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**Litigation History:**  
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**Message ID:** ea4223a5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
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**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
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**Reference:** 78 STATE 111967  
**Retention:** 0  
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**Review Content Flags:**  
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**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
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**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 2809004  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES COMPENSATION NEGOTIATIONS  
**TAGS:** EINV, PGOV, SOCI, DM, US, JEHOVAHS WITNESSES  
**To:** STATE LAGOS  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/ea4223a5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
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